

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE BROOKLYN TABERNACLE CHOIR

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir.

The internationally renowned Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir was founded in 1973. As part of the ministry of the Brooklyn Tabernacle Church in Brooklyn, New York, the 250-voice choir is recognized worldwide for the magnitude of its sound and the soul-filled inspiration of its music. Since its formation three decades ago, the choir has emerged as a major influence within the Christian/gospel music industry.

With a multi-ethnic and economically diverse membership, the choir truly represents the best of New York and America. Some members have been singing with the choir for more than 25 years. Despite their differing backgrounds, the entire choir operates like a close knit family. This level of cooperation is possible because of the individual commitment of the members and the inspired leadership of its director, Carol Cymbala. I want to commend the choir on its ability to apply the harmony of music to the ministry of life.

On February 23, 2003, the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir won a Grammy Award for Best Gospel Choir or Chorus for its album "Be Glad". With this most recent recognition, the group has become one of a few choirs which has attained the acknowledgment of both the popular music business and the Christian music industry. As a five-time winner of the Grammy Award and two-time winner of the Dove Award, the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir has performed in some of the most celebrated venues in New York City, including Carnegie Hall, Radio City Music Hall, and the Paramount Theater. In a rare testament to the power of its music, the choir has played to a sold-out audience at Madison Square Garden. With New York City and Brooklyn as its home, the choir continues to greatly impact the local community, including my district, the 10th Congressional District of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend this choir not only on its most recent Grammy Award but on its 30 years of dedicated music ministry. In these difficult and uncertain times, I sincerely hope that the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir continues to use music to bring a message of good news and hope to Brooklyn and the world.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING KEVIN H. BARNETT

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, whereas, Kevin H. Barnett has devoted himself to serving others

through his membership in the Boy Scouts of America; and

Whereas, Kevin H. Barnett has shared his time and talent with the community in which he resides; and

Whereas, Kevin H. Barnett has demonstrated a commitment to meet challenges with enthusiasm, confidence and outstanding service; and

Whereas, Kevin H. Barnett must be commended for the hard work and dedication he put forth in earning the Eagle Scout Award; and

Therefore, I join with Troop 141, the residents of Carrollton, and the entire 18th Congressional District in congratulating Kevin H. Barnett as he receives the Eagle Scout Award.

SOCIETY FOR HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT (SHRM)

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome the members of the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) to Washington, D.C. for their 20th Annual Employment Law and Legislative Conference. Today, more than 200 SHRM members will visit Capitol Hill to share their views and experiences with issues such as the Fair Labor Standards Act, health care reform, and pension reform.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. Representing more than 170,000 individual members, the Society serves the needs of human resource (HR) professionals by providing the most essential and comprehensive set of resources available. As an influential voice, SHRM also seeks to advance the HR profession by ensuring that HR is an essential and effective partner in developing and executing organizational strategy.

As a legislator, I want to congratulate the members of SHRM for recognizing the important role individuals can play in affecting the legislative process. HR professionals maintain demanding schedules and are crucial to the successful operation of our nation's organizations. Most importantly they understand the positive impact of meeting with their Senators and Representatives to discuss recent workplace trends, their policy implications, and suggested remedies. Citizen participation is a crucial component of the legislative process, allowing legislators and their staff the opportunity to hear constituents explain personal experiences as they live and work within our nation's laws. Finally, legislators gain critical knowledge through these conversations, resulting in legislation that's clearly applicable to the workplace and effective for employees and employers.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely thank the members of SHRM for their commitment to provide

value to employees and employers across the United States while contributing an essential component to the political process—practical real world experience.

ARTICLE BY RABBI ISRAEL ZOBERMAN

HON. EDWARD L. SCHROCK

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. SCHROCK. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to share the following article written by a constituent, Rabbi Israel Zoberman. His article is timely and informative with respect to the current political situation in Israel.

With a heavy heart I bade shalom's farewell to elderly parents who are Holocaust survivors, and to Israel where I grew up, on the eve of the unknown. I left a country calmly readying itself for a probable American attack on Iraq in freedom's name, and possible ramifications for the Jewish state that already experienced a limited taste of Saddam Hussein's Scud missiles during the 1991 Gulf War. As then, which I witnessed as well, the Israeli public receives updated gas masks, and urged to prepare a sealed shelter with essential food items. There is less concern now though it can quickly change.

I visited Israel with fellow rabbis immediately following the general elections there which serve as a barometer for the citizens' mindset, particularly after enduring over two years of the bloody Second Intifada presenting Israel with its greatest crisis since its 1948 inception. The resulting shrinking economy and the growing gap between the haves and the have-nots have added pressure, but also fortified the Israeli resolve to withstand the Palestinian assault of unprecedented suicide-homicide bombings, reflected in the elections' outcome. Free elections are not to be taken for granted in that part of the world, and Israel's vibrant example is the only such sign of democratic life! Israel is worried that only 69 percent of eligible voters participated this time, that should only happen in our own great democracy.

Prime Minister Sharon and the political Right were assured a major victory though the message was primarily aimed at Chairman Arafat along with punishing Israel's Left for providing him through the Oslo Accords with the means to terrorize through short of submission to his agenda. Thus Arafat's plan boomeranged to gain through violence beyond what former Prime Minister Barak so trustfully offered him. He lost his gamble, with the Palestinians miscalculating once more and continuing to hurt their own welfare. This time Arafat succeeded to convince Israel and the U.S., both victims of terrorism and allies in combating it, that he is a critical obstacle to peace. I was fortunate to participate in a helicopter ride along the seam line separating the Israelis and Palestinians, watching from above the complexity of erecting the separation fence and Israel's disconcerting narrow waistline.

The sharpening conflict has also adversely impacted European Jewry as

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

we studied the precipitous rise in anti-Semitism in France during our initial stop there, mindful of the contributing presence of millions of Arab Muslims though the French authorities are not indifferent to the Jewish plight. We were warmly greeted and candidly briefed by Howard Leach, the American Ambassador to France in his official residence. Israel's ambassador, Nissin Zvilli, was gracious as well. Both ambassadors pointed at the linkage between the events in the Middle East and the French scene. Our moving meeting with the legendary Nazi-hunter Beate Klarsfeld reminded us that the Holocaust's ghosts are not altogether expunged. This sense was reinforced at the Drancy Memorial on the outskirts of Paris, where French Jews were herded into the surrounding building complex before deportation to death.

I painfully watched in disbelief on Israeli TV the shattering dream, so close to realization though so far, of Israel's first astronaut on his maiden voyage. Ilan Ramon's call from outer space to remember that we are all one human family on a precious but fragile planet Earth will long echo. His radiating and captivating optimism is so sorely missing and needed at this trying time. He, whose mother survived Auschwitz, along with his inspiring American colleagues aboard the Columbia, taught us how vulnerable are our most noble human aspirations and that the road to accomplishing them is strewn with broken pieces of a reality we are yet pledged to redeem through shalom's persistent promise of peace.

Rabbi Israel Zoberman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth Chaverim in Virginia Beach, is a member of the Rabbinic Cabinet of United Jewish Communities.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM C. WRIGHT

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the life and memory of William C. Wright of Pueblo, Colorado. Bill was a hero who saved the lives of five people and was a constant contributor to his community. Today, I stand before this body of Congress and this nation to honor the heroism of William C. Wright, and commemorate his recent passing.

In a span of less than ten years, Mr. Wright's selflessness and quick thinking saved the lives of five people. In June of 1964, while working on a construction site, Bill saved an 18-month-old girl who had stepped in front of a moving truck. Bill risked his own life by jumping in front of the truck and cushioning the girl's fall with his own body. Then, a few weeks later, Bill stopped his car at an accident on La Veta Pass. Seeing a man pinned beneath the overturned car, Bill lifted the car, freeing the man to crawl to safety. Always humble, Mr. Wright said he doubted his own physical strength. The strength of his resolve saved the trapped man's life.

Less than a year later, Bill saved a young girl in a busy intersection in Gunnison, Colorado. Then, while traveling to Golden, Bill again paused to check on a vehicle stopped in the middle of the road. He saw a five-year-old boy brush against the gearshift, sending the car down a steep incline. Bill dashed after the car and, after breaking the window with his

shoulder, stopped the car, saving the boy inside it. Finally, during a trip to Las Vegas, Bill saved another young girl, though he himself suffered a fractured elbow and a broken wrist. Mr. Wright's quick actions and selfless thinking saved the lives of five individuals, making him a true hero who will be deeply missed.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of Mr. William Wright. He saved many lives, and was a hero for Pueblo and all of Colorado. As we mourn Bill's passing, our thoughts are with those who knew him, and we are sure that his memory will live on in the lives of all those he touched, and especially those he saved.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 60TH ANNIVERSARY OF INTERSTATE WORLDWIDE RELOCATION

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I am proud today to recognize the 60th anniversary of Interstate Worldwide Relocation, headquartered in northern Virginia, a worldwide relocation and transportation management company specializing in household goods moving and storage.

A sterling example of the American dream fulfilled, Arthur E. Morrisette started the company on March 15, 1943, with a used truck worth \$450, a dolly and a few furniture pads. His first move was billed at \$12.50, and in the winter of that year he sold bundles of firewood just to keep the business going. Today, Interstate is a multi-million dollar enterprise, operating a fleet of approximately 300 vehicles, employing more than 300 people in northern Virginia and consisting of over 500 representatives worldwide.

Interstate, ranked in the nation's top twenty for relocation and transportation management companies, is committed to its motto of providing "Top Hat Service." The company has been recognized by both industry and community organizations for its outstanding customer service and safety efforts. To mention a few, American Moving and Storage Association honored Interstate in 2001 with a first place Safety Initiative Award and Fleet Safety Award. Fairfax County Economic Development Authority awarded its 2001 Blue Diamond Quality First Award to Interstate distinguishing the company as a business that provides high quality customer service above and beyond industry standards.

In addition, Interstate was awarded the 2001 National Capital Ethics Award by the Greater Washington and Northern Virginia Chapter of the Society of Financial Services Professionals as a business that exemplifies a strong commitment to business excellence and to the highest standards of civic and social responsibility, integrity and ethical conduct.

Interstate also has become the U.S. Department of Defense's second-largest mover, and has provided a superior level of service to military families moving domestically, and internationally.

The company also has a long standing commitment to serving the needs of the community, both locally and across the Commonwealth. Interstate's dedication to the support of education from the elementary school level

through and including endowed scholarships at universities in the Commonwealth is commendable.

It is an honor to present Interstate Worldwide Relocation as an example of the business values America holds dear and as an example of an outstanding corporate citizen. On behalf of the northern Virginia community, we wish the entire Interstate family of management and employees another 60 years of "Top Hat Service."

A TRIBUTE TO YOLANDA J. MARTIN

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 11, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Yolanda J. Martin in recognition of her dedication to helping those in need.

Yolanda was born in the town of Puerto Armuelles in the Republic of Panama. However, she spent her formative years of elementary and high school in the city of Colon.

She immigrated to the United States in 1981 and has been a resident of Brooklyn ever since that time. Yolanda has a strong desire to improve her community by assisting the less fortunate. She believes that we must provide children and adults with the necessary resources to become educated and gain financial independence. Through education and financial development, she feels communities can empower themselves. She has shown a consistent dedication to these ideals through both her professional and personal life.

At fourteen, Yolanda joined the Boy Scouts Explorer unit where she was exposed to Emergency Medical rescue trainings. This experience cultivated her fascination with the medical field. Yolanda has become a State certified Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), Nurses Assistant, C.P.R. and First Aid Instructor, and HIV/AIDS Educational Instructor. As a way of giving back to the community, she worked as an EMT from 1990 to 1995, responding to 911 calls with a volunteer ambulance service. She volunteered an average of 20 to 30 hours a week.

Yolanda began her professional career in the United States working with mentally disabled people for the State of New York State from 1982 to 1985. For the next three years, she worked at the New York State Division for Youth. Yolanda followed this experience by working for the Board of Education as a bilingual Paraprofessional in Special Education.

More recently, she has founded three childcare services: Parents United for a Better Society Inc., child care center number one and child care center number two, and Minnie's Family Group Day Care, where she serves as the Executive Director and CEO.

The center offers the community 95 slots for day care, after school programs, summer programs, and universal pre-kindergarten for children up to 13 years old. Adult training and parenting classes are provided to the parents and others in the community as well. Yolanda is presently working on creating an additional day care center that will provide 178 childcare